

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 174659

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
FOR AMBASSADOR FROM NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:EAID, PBOR, U.S., JO, XF

SUBJECT: 'FY 79 JORDAN AID PROGRAM

REF: AMMAN 4193

1. I COULD NOT PERSONALLY ATTEND JULY 21 MEETING, BUT
ERIC TUNIS AND CHRISTINE MONROE, WHO IS THE NEWLY ADDED
SIXTH OFFICER ON THE ARN STAFF, WERE PRESENT. THIS MEET-
ING WAS IN NO WAY A FINAL DECISION POINT, ALTHOUGH IT
CLEARLY REVEALED THE THRUST OF AID'S THINKING AS DOMINATED
BY WHEELER. AMMAN'S 4059 ADDRESSED TO WHEELER AND ATHERTON
FROM YOU HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED BY WHEELER, BUT TUNIS
DREW IT TO HIS ATTENTION. THE AID PROGRAM REVIEW PROCESS
IS COMPLICATED THIS YEAR BY THE REQUIREMENT FOR A ZERO
BASED BUDGETING ANALYSIS. IN ONE SENSE, THIS COULD BE
HELPFUL TO SUCH PROJECTS AS POTASH AND MAQARIN. MY GUESS
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IS THAT, IF WE WERE A FEW MONTHS FURTHER ALONG IN PEACE
NEGOTIATING EFFORTS, AND WERE ENCOUNTERING SOME SUCCESS,
WE COULD MAKE SOME REAL HEADWAY.

2. IN ANY EVENT, AID IS PREPARING AN OPTIONS SUBMISSION
WHICH WENDS ITS WAY TO LUCY BENSON, IN WHICH AID PRESENTS
ITS JUSTIFICATION FOR SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE, ETC., FROM AN

ECONOMIC POINT OF VIEW EXCLUSIVELY. FROM THE STATE SIDE, WE PRESENT THE POLITICAL JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE OTHER OPTIONS, DISAGREEING WITH AID WHERE THIS IS INEVITABLE. OUR BUREAU DEADLINE FOR THE LATTER EXERCISE IS AUGUST 2.

3. STRICTLY FYI: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL INTERESTING PAPERS ON THE ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF A PEACE SETTLEMENT, PREPARED IN THE DEPARTMENT, IN CIA, AND ELSEWHERE. TO MY KNOWLEDGE, ALL HAVE DESCRIBED IN FAIR TERMS THE POTASH AND MAQARIN PROJECTS. ONE PAPER--A "BEST CASE ENARIO--WAXED ELOQUENT ABOUT MAQARIN AND POTASH, AND WE ARE AWARE THAT IT HAS RECEIVED THE HIGHEST, RPT HIGHEST LEVEL ATTENTION. END FYI.

4. MY OWN GUESS IS THAT, WITH SOME PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS OR AT GENEVA LATER THIS YEAR, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET SOMETHING FOR MAQARIN AS A REGIONAL PROJECT IN THE EQUIVALENT OF A SUPPLEMENTAL. THIS IS WHY--STRICTLY FOR PRAGMATIC REASONS--I AM INCLINED TO A STRATEGY THAT WOULD GIVE US THE DOLS 50 MILLION YOU WANT FOR POTASH, THE ROUGHLY DOLS 40 MILLION YOU WANT FOR THE REGULAR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH WOULD INCLUDE AMMAN WATER, PLUS AT LEAST DOLS 35 MILLION IN BUDGET SUPPORT.

5. THIS WOULD GIVE SHORT SHRIFT FOR MAQARIN FOR THE MOMENT, BUT TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE REALITIES THAT
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OPINION IN AID, OMB, AND SOME PARTS OF THE HILL IS NOT YET CONDITIONED ADEQUATELY. THERE IS ALSO A VISCERAL FEELING HERE THAT ISRAEL--DESPITE THE COOPERATION IT HAS SHOWN SO FAR--WILL NOT WANT TO SEE A DAM GO UP WHILE THE GENERAL POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE AREA REMAINS UNCERTAIN. I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD DISCUSS YOUR AIMS WITH ROY AND HABIB DURING THE SECRETARY'S VISIT, INCLUDING YOUR VIEW THAT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR YOU TO BE IN WASHINGTON FOR AWHILE. PLEASE NOTE THAT ANYTHING RESEMBLING MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENTS HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT, AND MAQARIN WOULD REPRESENT A MAJOR POLICY EFFORT AT THIS PARTICULAR JUNCTURE. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY ADDED THOUGHTS FROM YOU ON THIS CABLE BEFORE I SEE ROY TO REVIEW ALL YOUR CONCERNS. VANCE

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